

Minority Health Facts

ASIANS & PACIFIC ISLANDERS in Rhode Island

INTRODUCTION

This report provides information about major health indicators for the Asian and Pacific Islander population living in Rhode Island. An Asian or Pacific Islander (API) is defined by the Office of Management and Budget (Directive 15) as a person having origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, India, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, the Philippine Islands, and Samoa. A White person is defined as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East or North Africa.

This report presents data on socio-economic characteristics, morbidity and mortality, behavioral risks, infectious diseases, maternal and child health and access to healthcare among Asian and Pacific Islander residents in comparison to the overall state population. Please note that race and ethnic status for some Health Department data sets are based on self-identification. Due to the nature in which data are collected, some statistics may be reported only for Asians rather than both Asians and Pacific Islanders (API).

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the US Bureau of the Census's 2005 American Community Survey, there were 29,813 Asian and Pacific Islanders living in Rhode Island (RI). Approximately 2.8% of the RI population is of Asian descent and about 0.1% is of Pacific Islander descent. Forty-five percent (45%) of the Asian and Pacific Islander population in RI was born in a foreign country. The median age for the Asian American population is 28 years whereas the overall state median age is 38 years. About 84% of the Asian American population is age 50 or less while 70.2% of the overall state population is age 50 or less.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The following are socio-economic characteristics of Rhode Island's Asian population from the 2000 Census. These characteristics may affect the health of the Asian and Pacific Islander residents of Rhode Island.

- The percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders living below poverty is almost two times the overall state population and almost three times that of the White population.
- The median household income for Asians and Pacific Islanders is about \$40,600— approximately \$3,900 less than the state median and \$4,700 less than the White population.
- The unemployment rate for Asians and Pacific Islanders is slightly higher than the rate for the overall state population.
- The Asian and Pacific Islander graduation rate is slightly lower than the White and the overall state population.



Table A: Socio-Economic Data

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percent of population living below poverty ¹	22.0	7.9	11.9
Percent of population that is unemployed ²	4.6	3.1	3.6
Median household income ³	\$40.6k	\$45.3k	\$44.5k
High School graduation rate ⁴ (percent)	80.0	88.0	85.0

SOURCES: ¹U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; 1999 data.

²U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; 2000 data.

³U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; 2001 estimates.

⁴RI Kids Count Factbook, 2006; data from 2005.

MORTALITY

- For the period between 2000-2004, heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic respiratory diseases were four leading causes of death among the Asian and Pacific Islander and the overall state populations. Unintentional injuries is the fourth leading cause of death for Asians and Pacific Islanders, but it is not ranked in the top five leading causes of death for the overall state population.

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS

- The percent of the Asian and Pacific Islander population that is overweight is lower than the White and the overall state population.
- The Asian and Pacific Islander population has lower percentages of obesity than the White and the overall state populations.

The percent of Asians/Pacific Islanders who participate in light to moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes a day is slightly less than the White or the overall state population.



Table B: Leading Causes of Death, 2000-2004

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)	STATE
1	Heart disease	Heart disease	Heart disease
2	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer
3	Stroke	Stroke	Stroke
4	Unintentional injuries	Chronic respiratory diseases	Chronic respiratory diseases
5	Chronic respiratory diseases	Pneumonia/influenza	Pneumonia/influenza

SOURCE: RI Dept. of Health, Division of Vital Records, RI Resident Deaths, ICD-10 Codes, 2000-2004.

Table C: Behavioral Risk Factor Indicators

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)	STATE
Percent of adult population ¹ that participates in light to moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day (2001, 2003, 2005)	46.5	51.4	49.8
Percent of adult population that is overweight ² or obese ³ (20 yrs+) (2000-2005)	39.3	57.6	57.8
Percent of adult population that is obese ³ (20 yrs+) (2002-2005)	11.1	19.2	19.6
Percent of adult population that consumes at least five daily servings of fruits and vegetables per day (2002, 2003, 2005)	29.0	27.9	27.5
Percent of adult population that smokes cigarettes (2002-2005)	18.3	21.6	21.4
Percent of adult population that consumed 5+ drinks on one or more occasions in past month (binge-drinking) (2002-2005)	16.0	17.4	17.2

SOURCE: RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

¹Adult population refers to individuals 18 years and older unless otherwise specified.

²Overweight defined by CDC as BMI \geq 25.

³Obesity defined by CDC as BMI \geq 30.

**Table D: Incidence Rates of Infectious Diseases:
Cases per 100,000 Population**

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Gonorrhea ¹	+	21.3	41.8
Chlamydia ¹	471.9	133.5	311.8
Tuberculosis ²	38.4 ³	2.0	4.5
HIV ⁴	+	6.1	17.2

SOURCES: RI Dept. of Health, Office of Communicable Diseases

¹Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Surveillance Data 2005.

²Tuberculosis Database 2005.

³Asian only.

⁴HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data 2005.

+Sample too small for meaningful analysis.

Table E: Maternal and Child Health Indicators

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percent of pregnant women with delayed prenatal care ¹	18.0	8.6	9.9
Rate of births to teens ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens) ¹	38.9	30.0	31.0
Percent of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education ¹	16.8	13.9	15.2
Percent of infants with low birth weight (<5.5 lbs.) ¹	10.0	7.4	8.0
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ²	8.9	5.6	6.4
Percent of children in poverty (<18 yrs.) ³	15.0	12.0	19.5

SOURCES: ¹RI Dept. of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2001-2005.

²Infant Mortality Database, 2001-2005.

³RI Kids Count Factbook 2006; 2005 data.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- The rate of chlamydia is approximately 1.5 times higher in the Asian and Pacific Islander population than in the overall state population.
- During 2005, the rate of tuberculosis cases was 8.5 times higher for Asians than it was for the overall state population and nineteen times higher than the White population.
- There were no known cases of tuberculosis in the Pacific Islander population.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

- The state population as a whole and the White population has more favorable maternal and child health outcome indicators than the Asian and Pacific Islander population.
- A higher percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders give birth as a teenager compared to the overall state teen population and the White teen population.
- The percent of Asian/Pacific Islander women who received delayed prenatal care is about two times greater than the White and the overall state population.



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- A larger percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders in Rhode Island report *having no health insurance* or said that there was a time when they could not afford to see a doctor compared to the White and the overall state population.

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Table F: Access to Healthcare Indicators

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDERS	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percent of adults less than 65 years old that report having no health insurance ¹ (2002-2005)	14.1	7.6	10.5
Percent of adults that report having no specific source of ongoing healthcare ¹ (2000-2001)	+	14.2	15.6
Percent of population (all ages) stating usual source of care as none or emergency room ² (2000-2001)	+	4.6	4.9
Percent of women aged 40+ that report receiving a mammogram in the past 2 yrs ¹ (2001, 2002, 2004)	+	90.0	90.1
Percent of women that reported having a pap test in the past 3 yrs ¹ (2001, 2002, 2004)	+	86.1	86.9
Percent of adults that said "yes" when asked if there was a time they could not afford to see a doctor ¹ (2003-2005)	11.7	7.5	9.3

SOURCES: ¹RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

²Rhode Island Health Interview Survey.

+Sample too small for meaningful analysis.

For more information regarding minority health and the statistics contained in this report, please contact:

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